

D1
for mucosal vaccines. The specific branched beta-1, 3- glucan enhances the medicinal effects of various substances, including vaccine antigens, in contact with mucosal surfaces.

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS.

D2
1. (Thrice amended) A mucosal adjuvant composition that enhances the effect of medicinal substances administered onto mucosal surfaces, the mucosal adjuvant composition comprising a branched beta-1,3-glucan that contains beta-1,3-linked side chains anchored by a beta-1,6-linkage to the beta-1,3-linked chains.

4. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 1 onto a mucosal membrane wherein the substance is administrated into the nasal cavity.

D3
5. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 1 onto a mucosal membrane wherein the substance is administrated orally.

6. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the substance forms a mixture with the mucosal adjuvant composition.

D4
7. (Twice amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 1 wherein the substance is administrated prior to the mucosal adjuvant composition.

8. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the substance and the mucosal adjuvant composition are used as nasal spray.

D5
13. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 1 wherein the substance is administered vaginally, rectally or gastrically.

14. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 1 wherein the substance is administrated simultaneously with the mucosal adjuvant composition.

D6
15. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 1 wherein the substance is administrated after administration of the mucosal adjuvant composition.

D6
16. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the substance and the mucosal adjuvant composition are formulated as nasal drops.

18. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 17 onto a mucosal membrane wherein the influenza virus vaccine is administered into the nasal cavity.

19. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 17 onto a mucosal membrane wherein the influenza virus vaccine is administered orally.

20. (Amended) The composition of claim 17 wherein the influenza virus vaccine is admixed with the mucosal adjuvant preparation.

21. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 17 wherein the influenza virus vaccine is administered prior to the mucosal adjuvant composition.

D7
22. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 17 wherein the influenza virus vaccine is administered simultaneously with the mucosal adjuvant composition.

23. (Amended) A method of administering the composition of claim 17 wherein the influenza virus vaccine is administered after administration of the mucosal adjuvant composition.

24. (Amended) The composition of claim 17 wherein the influenza virus vaccine and the mucosal adjuvant composition are formulated as nasal spray.

25. (Amended) The composition of claim 17 wherein the influenza virus vaccine and the mucosal adjuvant composition are used as nasal drops.

REMARKS

The Official Action of September 11, 2001 has been carefully reviewed and Applicants provide the following remarks: